

Inside Wallops

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Arcadia Middle School Participating in Flight Project at Wallops This Week

Students from Arcadia Middle School in Oak Hall, Va., will experience the thrill of conducting launch operations and a science mission during a workshop on Wednesday, March 15 at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

Students will actively participate in the launch of a weather balloon, conduct operations from the NASA mission control center and monitor the data as it is received from science instruments during the flight.

During the workshop, students and their teachers will experience the complexities, coordination and teamwork required to conduct a flight science mission, whether it's using a balloon or a rocket.

Earlier this week NASA personnel will visit the school and work with students to prepare experiment samples for flight on a future scientific balloon mission. During this future mission, the experiment samples will fly for 12 to 24 hours at nearly 30 miles altitude.



Photo by Nadean Moore

Stephanie LiPuma (left) and Lacee Pyles, 8th grade students, work on their science experiment.

After the experiment samples are returned, students will be able to compare the flight samples to control samples that will remain at the school. Arcadia is 1 of 150 NASA Explorer Schools, nationwide.

Over a three-year period the schools partner with NASA to increase student interest, performance and participation in science, mathematics, and technology fields of study and careers.

Wallops Shorts..... In the News

Eastern Shore News, "No Ammo Found During NASA-Wallops Cleanup"

Eastern Shore Post, "No Explosives Found at Visitor Center"

Daily Times, "Ammunition Cleanup Completed at Wallops"

Herald-Press, Palestine, Texas, "Ceremony Celebrates East Texas Balloon Facility's New Name"

March is Women's History Month

The "consciousness raising" associated with the Women's Movement of the 1960's caused women to reconsider their roles in the home, work and political arenas.

Women also began to question their invisibility in traditional history texts and study. An early women's historian, Carol Smith-Rosenberg, described the women's search for their history as follows: "Aroused by feminist charges of economic and political discrimination... we turned to our history to trace the origins of women's second class status."

The public celebration of women's history began in 1978 in Sonoma County, Calif., with Women's History Week which included International Women's Day, March 8.

In 1981, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month.

The Women of Wallops, Federal Women's Program, are presenting several lunch time seminars in celebration of Women's History Month. Check out their homepage: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/FWP/>



Photo by Rich Rogers

Wallops senior manager, John Campbell, (right), recently presented this quarter's Aviation Safety Council Superstar Award to Mike Cropper, NASA Mechanical System Branch. Cropper was recognized for his hard work on site at the University of North Dakota as the configuration manager for the NASA DC8 INTEx-B mission".

St. Patrick's Day, Part I Irish Music in the Cafeteria March 15

The Unplugged Music Group will play Irish music in the Cafeteria at lunchtime and in the Rocket Club at 5 p.m.

Come to the Rocket Club for good music and free food. Appropriate beverages will be for sale to celebrate everyone's Irish-ness.

St. Patrick's Day, Part II March 17 — 5 p.m.

More free food and appropriate beverages for sale at the Rocket Club - A second chance to celebrate!



We had the Driest February on Record by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

Wallops Flight Facility recorded 0.74 inches of liquid equivalent precipitation in February 2006. This is 3.02 inches being normal and set a new monthly total for February. The previous recorded low precipitation was 0.75 inches in 2002.

We had measurable precipitation on 7 days with the most for a 24 hour period being 0.53 inches on the February 11 and 12.

A slight trace of snow (0.1 inches) fell on the 12th. Adding to the 0.2 inches recorded on February 18, we are still 2.73 inches short of the average 3.03 inches of snowfall for February.

Temperatures during February were 1.2 degrees warmer than average, with a monthly average of 38.9 degrees.

The warmest days were February 3 and 16 with readings of 68 degrees. A new daily record for the date also was set on the 3rd.

The coldest morning temperatures were experienced on the 19th with a reading of 15 degrees. No low temperature records were set or tied.

Wallops Flight Facility experienced 13 days with winds of 29 mph or greater. The strongest gust recorded was a 39 mph reading at 12:43 p.m. on Saturday the 25th.

With the official start of "spring" in March, we can look for warmer temperatures in April.

At the beginning of the month average daily highs are in the upper 50's, increasing into the mid 60's by the end of the month.

Average overnight lows the first of April are near 40 degrees and warm into the upper 40's by the end of the month.

The record high for the month is a 93 degree reading on April 26, 1990.

The coldest temperature recorded in April was 24 degrees, recorded on April 1, 1969.

The latest date recorded for a freezing temperature was 32 degrees recorded on the April 25, 1967.

Average rainfall totals 2.84 inches occurring on 10 days during the month. April 1983 is the wettest month with 5.43 inches of precipitation recorded. The driest was in 1985 with only 0.4 inches recorded.

Even though we have experienced a relatively mild winter, we still look to spring to raise our spirits in anticipation of enjoying more outdoor recreation, be it on the water or in the garden.



Upcoming Safety Classes at Wallops

All classes are in Building E2

Safety in High Pressure System Operations

March 30 8 a.m. -- 4 p.m.

Flex Hose Safety

March 31 8 a.m. -- Noon

Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

March 31 12:30 -- 4:30 p.m.

Basic Explosives Safety Course

April 10-11 8 a.m. -- 4 p.m.

This course is offered at no cost to all NASA and contractor employees. Registration forms are due by March 15 and are at:

<http://www.wff.nasa.gov/%7Ecode803/flyers/basic%20explosive%20safety%2082.DOC>

For further information contact Marvin Bunting at:

marvin.n.bunting.1@gsfc.nasa.gov or call x2030.

Basic Laser Technology

March 22 10 a.m. -- Noon

Wallops video-con
Building F6, Rm 213

Dr. Danny Krebs, Lasers and Electro-Optics Branch, will present the course on the basic concepts necessary for understanding lasers and laser beam propagation.

Topics will include optical amplification, optical resonators, elementary diffraction theory, modulation techniques, wavelength conversion techniques, properties of laser light, laser safety, and examples of space lasers.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Tina Wessells at x2110 or Tina.Wessells@nasa.gov.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage:

www.wff.nasa.gov
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